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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT**12 MARCH 2018**

(U) CALIFORNIA**(U) Pomona – Man Arrested in Killing of One Officer, Wounding of Another**

(U) A man suspected of shooting two California police officers, killing one of them, was arrested on 10 March after barricading himself in an apartment and holding a SWAT team at bay for more than 15 hours, authorities said. Police in the city of Pomona tried to stop the man, identified as 39-year-old Isaias De Jesus Valencia, Friday night after receiving a call about reckless driving, but he refused to pull over and led officers on a pursuit, Los Angeles County sheriff's officials said. The man crashed during the chase and fled into an apartment complex. The officers pursued the man, who fired through the door. Pomona Police Officer Gregory Casillas, 30, of Upland, was killed. The other officer was undergoing surgery Saturday and was expected to recover.

SOURCE: 10 March 2018, [SF Gate](#)

(U) Yountville – Three Hostages, Gunman Dead at Veterans Home

(U) A military veteran who had been treated for post-traumatic stress disorder burst into a veteran's home in the North Bay town of Yountville on 9 March with a rifle, killed three women connected with the treatment program and then killed himself, authorities and program officials said. Law enforcement officers found the bodies of the victims and the killer at the Veterans Home of California-Yountville shortly before 6 p.m., more than seven hours after the incident began. Authorities had earlier said the gunman was holding staff members of the Pathway Home, a program on the Veterans Home campus that had been treating him for PTSD until he was asked to leave several days ago.

SOURCE: 10 March 2018, [SF Gate](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**(U) California – Panga Boat Seized Off Coastline, 13 Immigrants in Custody**

(U) La Jolla – Thirteen unauthorized immigrants from Mexico found off the La Jolla coast in a panga-style boat were taken into custody on 10 March. San Diego lifeguards intercepted the boat in the surf and towed it a little farther out to sea for the safety of those onboard the panga. The boat had a motor, but people were using oars, trying to row to shore from about half a mile out, a Customs and Border Protection spokesperson said. A federal official said the 12 men and one woman were Mexican citizens who entered the United States illegally. The Border Patrol took them into custody.

SOURCE: 10 March 2018, [The San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

(U) NATIONAL**(U) Florida – Hackers Stole Information on Teachers and Students from Two Years Ago**

(U) Miami – Hackers stole the personal information of more than 350,000 Florida Virtual School students, parents and teachers two years ago, the company announced on 9 March. The stolen information includes students' names, birth dates, school account user names and passwords, parents' names and email addresses. More than 1,800 Leon County school teachers also had extra information stolen, including their Social Security numbers, addresses, phone numbers and "certain demographic

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information.” Florida Virtual School spokesperson James Fuller said the private cybersecurity firm hired to investigate the data breach found that no financial information was stolen. There’s an open investigation with the FBI and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

SOURCE: 9 March 2018, [Miami Herald](#)

(U) Illinois – Man Charged With False Threats about Flight Leaving Airport

(U) Chicago – Authorities say a man has been charged with making a false bomb threat after telling a fellow passenger on a plane preparing to depart Chicago that it was going to explode. Court documents say 28-year-old Michael Bielinski of Chicago told a woman sitting next to him "we're all going to die" on 9 March as the American Airlines flight was getting ready to leave O'Hare International Airport for Sacramento, California. Prosecutors say the woman reported Bielinski smelled of gasoline and took out a pipe containing liquid that turned out to be an electronic cigarette. The plane returned to the gate and Bielinski was arrested. He was charged yesterday and ordered held on \$5,000 bail.

SOURCE: 12 March 2018, [SF Gate](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Austria – Knife Attacker Shot outside Iranian Ambassador’s Residence**

(U) Vienna – Heightened security measures have been ordered at embassies and other diplomatic buildings in Vienna after a soldier stationed outside the residence of the Iranian ambassador to Austria shot dead a man who tried to stab him. The 26-year-old assailant’s motive for the attack was unclear and video footage would be reviewed. “The attacker stabbed the soldier repeatedly. He was only saved by a stab-proof vest,” a spokesman said, adding that the two men ended up grappling on the ground. “The soldier defended himself well and was then able to reach for his service weapon and fire shots.”

SOURCE: 12 March 2018, [Reuters](#)

(U) Canada – FBI Arrests CEO of Company Selling Custom BlackBerrys to Gangs

(U) Vancouver – Custom, extra-secure BlackBerry phones remain a staple of the criminal underworld, and a recent bust just illustrated this point. Motherboard has learned that the FBI arrested Vincent Ramos, the founder of the well-established phone mod seller Phantom Secure, for allegedly aiding criminal organizations that include the Sinaloa drug cartel. The company altered BlackBerry and Android devices to disable common features (including the camera and web browsing) while adding additional privacy for encrypted conversations. Reportedly, undercover agents running a sting operation not only heard Ramos say that buying one of his phones was "totally fine," but that the phones were modified "specifically" with drug trafficking in mind. The company even singled out server providers in Hong Kong and Panama as those it thought would be "uncooperative" with police.

SOURCE: 10 March 2018, [Yahoo News](#)

(U) England – Hundreds Urged to Wash Clothes after UK Nerve Agent Attack

(U) Salisbury – Hundreds of people who visited the Zizzi restaurant or the Mill pub in the English city of Salisbury were told yesterday to wash their clothes after traces of nerve agent used to attack a former Russian spy last week were found at both sites. Public Health England said there was no immediate health risk to anyone who may have been in either the restaurant or the pub, but there was a small chance that any of the agent that had come into contact with clothing or belongings could still be present in minute amounts and contaminate skin. Former double agent Sergei Skripal, 66, and his daughter Yulia, 33, have been in hospital in a critical condition since March 4, when they were found unconscious on a bench in the southern English cathedral city of Salisbury.

SOURCE: 11 March 2018, [Reuters](#)

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**(U) Mexico – Officials Rule out Terrorism, Organized Crime in Ferry Blast**

(U) Playa del Carmen – A blast that injured more than two dozen in February in the Mexican resort town of Playa del Carmen was not an act of terrorism or organized crime, the Mexico attorney general's office said yesterday. The explosion on a ferry docked at a Playa del Carmen pier was set off by a rudimentary or homemade device. "The responsibility of terrorist organizations or organized crime has been ruled out," acting Attorney General Alberto Elías Beltrán said at a news conference. Officials did not offer any details on who they believe was responsible. The explosion injured at least 25 people, including US tourists.

SOURCE: 11 March 2018, [Reuters](#)

(U) Syria – US Warns 'Unwise' For Syria to Use Weaponized Gas

(U) Ghouta – US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis warned Syria yesterday it would be "very unwise" for government forces to use weaponized gas, as he cited unconfirmed reports of chlorine attacks in eastern Ghouta and slammed Russian support for Damascus. Mattis stopped short of threatening to retaliate against Syrian forces if a chlorine attack were confirmed. Mattis said he did not currently have clear evidence of any recent chlorine gas attacks but noted numerous media reports about chlorine use.

SOURCE: 11 March 2018, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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